

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A system for buyers and sellers of goods/services to engage in commerce, comprising one or more central processing units, system software for controlling said one or more central processing units, system storage means containing one or more system databases with information regarding buyers and sellers and the goods/services available, one or more servers providing for Internet-based access and use of said system by sellers to upload their goods inventory data and respond to requests for quotation, means for buyers of goods/services to select, from a single point of purchase, between at least one direct sales channel, wherein for said buyers to purchase goods/services by interacting directly with said sellers, and at least one indirect sales channel, wherein for said buyers can to purchase goods/services without direct interaction with said sellers, via an intermediary that acquires said goods/services from said sellers and resells same to said buyers, means for providing, at said single point of purchase, information regarding terms of purchase via said at least one direct sales channel and regarding terms of purchase via said at least one indirect sales channel for said buyers to compare and evaluate which of said sales channels provides better purchase terms for the same goods/services thereby allowing said buyer to evaluate which of said sales channels provides better purchase terms for the same goods/services, means for buyers to transmit requests for quotation to said system, means for said system to transmit requests for quotation to selected sellers, means for sellers to transmit quotations to buyers in response to requests for same.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising means for buyers to purchase goods/services by linking directly to seller ordering systems.

3. (Currently amended) A method for buyers and sellers of goods/services to engage in commerce, comprising the steps of: providing access to a searchable seller

goods/services information and inventory database to search for desired items; providing means for sellers to upload goods inventory data and respond to requests for quotation, providing to buyers, from a single point of purchase, ~~buyers with~~ at least one direct sales channel for said buyers to purchase goods/services interacting directly with said sellers, and at least one indirect sales channel for said buyers to purchase goods/services without direct interaction with said sellers, via an intermediary that acquires said goods/services from said sellers and resells same to said buyers from a single point of purchase, providing, at said single point of purchase, information regarding terms of purchase via said at least one direct sales channel and regarding terms of purchase via said at least one indirect sales channel for said buyer to thereby allowing said buyer to compare and evaluate which of said sales channels provides better purchase terms for the same goods/services; receiving requests for quotation for goods/services from buyers; sending said requests for quotation to selected sellers; and processing seller quotations submitted in response to said requests for quotation.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of providing buyers with a direct link to seller ordering systems.

6. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of selecting appropriate sellers to receive said requests for quotation based on filter conditions provided by buyers or sellers.

7. (Currently Amended) In a system for buyers and sellers of goods/services to engage in commerce, means for providing, from a single point of purchase, at least one direct sales channel for said buyers to purchase goods/services interacting directly with said sellers, and at least one indirect sales channel for said buyers to purchase goods/services without direct interaction with said sellers, via an intermediary that acquires said goods/services from said sellers and resells

same to said buyers, ~~from a single point of purchase,~~ and means for providing, at said single point of purchase, information regarding terms of purchase from a particular seller via said at least one direct sales channel and regarding terms of purchase from said seller via said at least one indirect sales channel for said buyers to compare and evaluate which of said sales channels provides better purchase terms for the same goods/services from said seller ~~thereby allowing said buyer to evaluate which of said sales channels provides better purchase terms for the same goods/services.~~